

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 AID-20 OMB-01 NIC-01

DRC-01 /177 W

----- 116438

R 281630Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5682

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINSHASA 10245

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CG, AO, PO, MZ

SUBJ: ZAIRE/ANGOLA: GRAE ANNOUNCES STEPPED UP MILITARY ACTIVITIES

BEGIN SUMMARY: THE ANGOLIAN LIBERATION MOVEMENT BASED IN  
IN ZAIRE HAS BEGUN TO DISPLAY MORE VIGOR. THERE IS SPECULATION  
THIS MAY BE LINKED WITH BELIEF IN LUSAKA AND DAR THAT

FRELIMO IS MAKING REAL PROGRESS AGAINST PORTUGUESE FORCES  
IN MOZAMBIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. GRAE PRESIDENT HOLDEN ROBERTO GAVE TWO HOUR PRESS  
CONFERENCE IN KINSHASA NOV 26 FOR VISITING GROUP OF BRITISH  
REPORTERS. OFFICIAL ZAIRIAN NEWS AGENCY ACCOUNT  
QUOTED HOLDEN AS SAYING GRAE CURRENTLY ENJOYS SUPPORT OF  
ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, AND TANZANIA AND STRUGGLE FOR ANGOLA  
WILL BE STEPPED UP IN 1974. HE MENTIONED IN PASSING  
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GRAE WILLINGNESS AT ANY TIME TO RENEW DISCUSSIONS WITH

MPLA.

2. ONE OF REPORTERS AT PRESS CONFERENCE, COLIN LEGUM, HAS PROVIDED EMBASSY WITH ADDITIONAL DETAILS. HOLDEN ANNOUNCED HE HAD 5000 NEW RECRUITS WHO BEING TRAINED IN THREE CAMPS. HE SAID RECRUITMENT OF ANGOLIANS IN ZAIRE POSES NO PROBLEM, GOZ RECOGNIZES GRAE'S AUTHORITY TO MOBILIZE ITS CITIZENS HERE AND IS PREPARED IF NECESSARY TO LEND A HAND. HE SAID GRAE WILL OPEN OFFICE IN DAR ES SALAAM SOON, AND EVENTUALLY IN LUSAKA. HOLDEN PRESENTED THREE PORTUGUESE PRISONERS TO PRESS -- TWO DESERTERS AND ONE CAPTURED PARATROOPER--AND ANNOUNCED THAT HE IS ARRANGING FOR THEIR RELEASE.

3. LEGUM COMMENTED HE HAS REASON TO BELIEVE NYERERE, KAUNDA AND MOBUTU AGREED LAST SUMMER TO THROW THEIR CHIEF SUPPORT TO GRAE. ONE REASON WAS DISARRAY OF MPLA, BUT MAIN REASON WAS THAT NYERERE AND KAUNDA FEAR PORTUGAL MAY MOVE TROOPS FROM ANGOLA TO MOZAMBIQUE TO FACE GROWING THREAT FROM FRELIMO. KAUNDA AND NYERERE CONVINCED MOBUTU THAT ONLY TIMELY MILITARY PRESSURE ON ANGOLA CAN PREVENT SUCH TRANSFER. LEGUM ASSUMES THAT THIS IS WHAT LIES BEHIND GRAE'S INCREASINGLY ACTIVE STANCE.

4. EMBASSY COMMENT: WHILE WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT MOBUTU HAS NO INTENTION OF INVOLVING ZAIRIAN ARMED FORCES IN MILITARY OPERATIONS AGAINST ANGOLA, IT IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR HE WANTS GRAE TO BE IN POSITION TO POSE A SOMEWHAT MORE CREDIBLE POTENTIAL MILITARY THREAT. TOTAL NUMBER OF GRAE TROOPS NOW IN UNIFORM REMAINS SUBJECT OF SPECULATION. BELGIAN EMBASSY TELLS US GRAE RECENTLY PLACED ORDER WITH LOCAL MANUFACTURER FOR 20,000 PAIRS OF BOOTS. LEGUM BELIEVES HOLDEN MAY HAVE AS MANY AS 5000 VETERAN TROOPS. WITH NEW RECRUTIS THIS WOULD MAKE 10,000 IN ALL. ZAIRE TELEVISION PROGRAM NOVEMBER 23 SHOWED ZAIRIAN OFFICERS GIVING BASIC TRAINING TO HUNDREDS OF NEW RECRUITS AT GRAE BASE AT KINKUZU, 300 KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF KINSHASA.

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## Message Attributes

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